

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 00982 042033Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----108654 042036Z /70

O R 042020Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0692
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 0982

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, MARR, UNSC, SOV, LE, IS, XF
SUBJECT: SOVIET OBSERVERS WITH UNIFIL

REF: (A) STATE 85788 (NOTAL), (B) TEL AVIV 4451, (C) BEIRUT
1842 (NOTAL)

1. ON APRIL 4 I MENTIONED TO SIILASVUO WE HAD HEARD
FROM URQUHART, IN ADDITION TO HIS COMMENTS TO ME, THOUGHTS
BEING GIVEN TO USING SOVIET UNMO'S NOW IN DAMASCUS IN
UNIFIL. WHILE RECOGNIZING POLITICAL PRESSURES SYG UNDER,
SUCH DEVELOPMENT WOULD, AS HE WELL KNEW, CAUSE STRONG
REACTION BY ISRAELIS. IF THERE HAD TO BE SOME PARTICIPATION
BY AN EE, WE HAD HOPED A POLISH UNIT TO HELP WITH MINE
CLEARING AND OTHER SUPPORT TASK COULD BE ARRANGED.

2. SIILASVUO SAID THERE WERE ONLY 13 SOVIETS AND THEY
COULD HARDLY BE A DANGER TO ANYONE IF SPREAD AROUND SOUTHERN
LEBANON. HE INTENDED TO ASSIGN A FEW TO THE Khardala AND
AKIYA BRIDGES AND WOULD EVENTUALLY USE SOME IN TYRE AREA
ALONG WITH FRENCH AND OTHER NATIONALITIES. I

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STRESSED POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS WHICH WOULD ARISE IF SOVIETS
WERE, FOR EXAMPLE, ASSIGNED ANY LIAISON DUTIES WITH PLO.
HE SMILED AND SAID HE WAS AWARE OF PROBLEM, HE WAS NOT
MOVING WITH HASTE, AND GOI WOULD BE INFORMED PRIOR TO
DEPLOYMENT. IF SOVIETS WERE PARTICIPATING, THEIR ATTITUDE
TOWARD UNIFIL COULD NOT BE TOTALLY NEGATIVE.

3. COMMENT: HIGH LEVEL DECISION ON THIS ONE SEEMS TO HAVE
BEEN TAKEN ABOUT THE TIME WE BECAME
AWARE OF POSSIBLE SOVIET PARTICIPATION.
NEWLIN

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